

YONKERS MAYOR SPANO STRENGTHENS CONSUMER PROTECTION CODE WITH NEW AMENDMENT TO CITY'S SECOND HAND DEALERS LAW

Amendment Provides Greater Protection for on Transactions Involving Precious Metals

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YONKERS, NY – May 17, 2012 – Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the passage of a new amendment to the City's Second Hand Dealers Law, which is aimed at strengthening the City's consumer protection ordinance regarding the transactions involving second hand dealers. Proposed by the Mayor, the amendment was passed by the City Council on May 8, 2012.

"By passing this bill, we will provide assistance to our law enforcement officers in recovering stolen goods, which will result in greater protection for our local consumers," said Mayor Spano. "We are sending a message to potential criminals that, one way or another, they will be tracked down and will be held accountable for their crimes."

The revised general ordinance now will require persons engaged in the commercial purchase or sale of secondhand gold, silver, platinum or other precious metals or items containing those precious metals, gems, jewelry, coins, stamps and currency to have a Second Hand Dealer license and register with the City Department of Consumer Protection.

"We are encouraged by this new bill as it will provide the Yonkers Police Department with additional tools to identify stolen property often associated with the crimes of robbery and burglary," said Yonkers Police Commissioner Chuck Gardner.

The general ordinance also requires more stringent documenting and record keeping pertaining to these transactions, more specifically:

- o The recording, in English, of the date and time, the name, residence and a general description of the person from whom such item was purchased or to whom sold.
- o A recorded description, including numbers, inscriptions, monograms, or numbers of the property purchased or sold.
- o Requires the dealer to post signs for new and second hand articles and label those articles which are second hand.

The passed bill amended Chapter 31, Article 26 of the city code of Yonkers, outlining the Second Hand Dealers Law.

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